

The
Encyclopaedia
of
Sport & Games

EDITED BY
THE EARL OF SUFFOLK AND BERKSHIRE

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VOLUME IV

RACKETS — ZEBRA

WITH ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED ILLUSTRATIONS



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the weapon be a heavy one, it is best to let him go, and follow up again leisurely, when he will surely be found again inside of two miles, probably halting under a tree, listening intently, and standing broadside at right angles to his spoor.

F. VAUGHAN KIRBY.

The Lado Enclave.—About the time that it was supposed to be on the verge of extermination, the white rhinoceros was discovered by Major Gibbons to be living in the Lado Enclave, on the Equator, whence its range was subsequently found to extend into the southern part of the Bahr-el-Ghazal. As a matter of fact, its existence on the Equator had been long previously hinted at, since horns were brought from the Lake Chad district by the explorers Denham and Clapperton early in the nineteenth century; and these commodities had for centuries been traded by the Arabs from the equatorial provinces of the Sudan. On the evidence of a skull presented by Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton to the British Museum, I gave the name of *R. simus cottoni* to the Lado white rhinoceros, which differs from the southern by the wider front of the skull, and apparently also by the nature of the sculpture of the skin. These rhinoceroses appear to abound in the equatorial jungles, and a number of specimens were procured during the Roosevelt expedition.

Not infrequently the second horn of the white rhinoceros forms a mere knob; and it has been suggested that such practically one-horned examples gave rise to the legend of the unicorn.

It may be mentioned in this place that both species of African rhinoceroses differ from their Asiatic relatives in the absence of folds in the skin, and likewise in the lack of incisor teeth in the front of their jaws. In consequence of this, the African species fight solely with their horns, whereas Asiatic rhinoceroses, as mentioned in Colonel Pollok's article, attack with their lower tusks.

R. LYDEKKER.

SOMALILAND.—The common two-horned "black" rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), which is very widely distributed over Africa, and seems to be in no immediate danger of becoming extinct, exists in moderate numbers, though nowhere so plentifully as in Equatorial Africa, in suitable country in parts of the Somali plateau, in the bush-covered wilderness of Ogaden, on the Webbe Shabeyli river, and in the Galla country beyond. In the hinterland of the North Somali Coast it has not been found to exist much nearer to the sea than a

hundred and fifty to two hundred miles. Rhinoceroses may come nearer to the coast in the country to the east towards Cape Guardafui.

The tracks are best found by pursuing the course of a river as described in the foregoing article. The ground is generally too broken for riding, so the sportsman must proceed on foot, and should be accompanied by a guide, a couple of carriers, and perhaps a camel, for the head and shields of a rhinoceros make a full load.

The fresh tracks of a good bull having been found—those of a cow or young one would generally be of little interest to the sportsman—they are not difficult to follow, the hard toes, at least, leaving a well-defined mark. The trail, after emerging from the last pool visited, will strike away from the river at right angles, and lead straight through the bush to the distant feeding ground. The trail, leading up the thorny bush-choked ravines and broken ground which form the approaches to the river-beds, involves a great deal of walking, and with the sun rising higher and getting hotter every moment, it is tiring work. The trail will probably after some time begin to wind about a good deal among thorn trees; here and there it will become a maze of tracks in one place, difficult to unravel, where the rhinoceros has lingered to feed about. By about eleven o'clock he will probably have stopped feeding and halted to rest, and will, if approached up the wind, be first seen standing dozing under a thorn bush or lying down.

The writer has tried, with some success, watching over water in the dry season, forming a "zeriba" with an opening commanding the pool. The construction of such a shelter is of importance, because a rhino will charge through brushwood easily. A strong thorn-tree should be chosen, with a thick stem, which should form the back of the shelter. The overhanging branches may be pulled down in front and at the sides as a screen, and it is an advantage to have it so situated that the ground falls away steeply in front to the pool.

Somalis kill the rhinoceros with the Midgan bow and poisoned arrows. The hide is valuable for shields, as many as from fifteen to twenty being cut from the skin of a single bull. The flesh is fairly eatable and makes good soup.

As the track may have to be followed for hours, by the time the hide has been removed—which is done in large slabs, these having been previously marked out on the body—and the return journey to camp accomplished, it may be already sunset; so it is advisable, when starting on such a hunt,



PAIR OF RHINOCEROS MEDITATING A CHARGE.



A RHINOCEROS IN THE ACT OF CHARGING.



TELEPHOTOGRAPH OF RHINOCEROS ABOUT TO CHARGE. THE BIRDS ARE STILL ON THEIR BACKS.



CHARGING RHINOCEROS TAKEN AT 15 YARDS.



ONE OF A PAIR CHARGING.



CHARGING RHINOCEROS TURNED BY A SHOT. [Photographs by A. Kaufflyffe Dugmore.]

to take an attendant with water and food. A good plan, after killing one or more rhinos, if water can be found not far off, is to send for the caravan and camp by the carcasses, when they can be cut up at leisure. Among Somalis, who, about



BLACK OR TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

food, are even more fastidious than other Mohammedan races, most of the meat is wasted.

A good pair of horns will measure about 20 inches for the front and 6 for the back horn. The skin of the head is very difficult to remove without damage at the point where it fits over the lumps which form the support to the horns. The horns themselves come off in one piece with the skin.

H. G. C. SWAYNE.

INDIA.—In British India there are three species of rhinoceros. In Assam and the Duars occurs the great Indian species (*Rhinoceros unicornis* or *R. indicus*), and also the Javan (*R. sondaicus*). Both these species are one-horned, but there is also the two-horned *R. sumatrensis*, which extends from Chittagong southwards to the Sundarbans, and is also found in Sumatra and Java, as well as in the Malay Peninsula. Its skin is as smooth as a buffalo's, but in habits and customs it much resembles the other species of the genus. In the Chittagong race of this rhinoceros the ears are fringed with long hairs. In the great Indian rhinoceros the horn is seldom eighteen inches long, generally a good deal less. The skin is very thick, with a deep fold at the setting on the head, another behind the shoulder, and a third in front of the thighs. There is a pair of large incisors in each jaw, with a pair of smaller intermediate ones below, and a pair of still smaller outside the upper incisors, the last not always present. The general

colour is dusky black. The dimensions of one I killed were as follows. Extreme length of body, 12½ feet; tail 2 feet; height 6 feet 2 inches; horn 14 inches. These animals delight in swamps, lie up in mud holes, and frequent even running rivers. The Javan rhinoceros (*R. sondaicus*) I have shot on the left bank of the Brahmapootra river, but never came across it on the right bank, though doubtless it exists there too, as it is a wandering beast. In appearance it somewhat resembles the larger, but the folds are not so pronounced, and the shields are covered with small tubercles. It is said to be attracted by fire; the Burmese assert that it even devours it.

Although in their wild state I have seen elephants and rhinoceros feeding not far apart, yet these domestic slaves, when in captivity, fear the rhinoceros far more than they do a tiger. I have seen rhinoceros and buffaloes lying down in the same mud hole, with only a few yards between them.

These animals live in such remote localities that they are only disturbed now and then by some enterprising hunter. To find them in fairly open ground, the sportsman must be in their preserves at daybreak, for they soon retire into impenetrable thickets and lie up during the day. They are naturally timid, more anxious to escape than fight, and are far easier to kill than many other wild beasts, notwithstanding their hide. This, whilst on the animal, is easily penetrated, but if removed and dried in the sun, soon becomes very hard. Though the



INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

living hide is anything but impenetrable, to reach a vital spot a bullet has to pass through a mass of blubber, muscle, and bone. To hunt them successfully, large bores, hardened bullets, and fully five or six drachms of powder are requisite. If driven to bay after being wounded, a rhinoceros